(c) the details of (a) and (b); and

(d) the efforts being made by Government to deal with Naxal menace?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (c) The peace talks between Andhra Pradesh Government and Naxalite outfits broke after the first round of talks, held at Hyderabad from October 15 to 18, 2004. Despite Naxalite outfits having announced unilateral withdrawal from the peace talks on 17.1.2005, the State Government has expressed its commitment to continue talks while taking necessary steps to maintain law and order in the State.

There are reports to indicate that Naxalite outfits consolidated their position in Andhra Pradesh during the peace talks period;. The Naxalite outfits are trying to spread their activity/influence in some parts of States such as Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Uttaranchal.

(d) The Central Government has adopted a multi-pronged strategy to tackle the problem of Naxalism which includes (a) having a peace dialogue by the affected States, wherever feasible, with Naxal groups willing to abjure violence, (b) modernization and strengthening of the State Police forces, (c) long term deployment of Para-Military forces for intensified intelligence based well-coordinated anti-naxalite operations, (d) focused attention on integrated development of the affected areas and (e) removal of socio-cultural alienation of people gearing up of public grievances redressal system and creation of Local Resistance Groups.

Nepalese gurkhas in the Country

1009. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the estimated number of Nepalese gurkhas in the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that with fewer jobs left in the army, many Nepalese gurkhas are taking up arms for the Maoists; and

(c) the steps Government are contemplating to address the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) The Government does not have data

on Nepalese gurkhas. However, as per 2001 census, there are 6,40,862 persons who have reportedly been born in Nepal and enumerated in India.

(b) There are no reports to indicate that Nepalese gurkhas are taking up arms for Maoists in the wake of lesser job opportunities in the Army.

(c) Does not arise.

Census of religion basis

1010. SHRI R. KAMARAJ: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had directed State Governments to conduct census on religion basis as reported in a section of print media;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what was the idea of Government to conduct census on religion basis; and

(d) whether Government had received any objection to such move?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYAGAVIT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

Formation of 'Bharat Rakshit Vahini

†1011. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal to form "Bharat Rakshit Vahini" to tackle the problem of Naxalism in Madhya Pradesh is pending;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have sanctioned Rs. 13 crores for formation of "Bharat Rakshit Vahini" I.R. Battalion; and

(d) if so, the present status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): No, Sir.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.